

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 10-13 and 16-24.

1. (Previously Presented) A joint for bullet traps, the joint comprising:

a first plate;

a second plate disposed in a linear arrangement with the first plate so as to form a joint;

a facing strip disposed along the joint, the facing strip having a first end and a second end with lateral edges extending along the sides therebetween configured for engaging the first plate and the second plate, the facing strip being bent between the lateral edges of the facing strip so as to form two sides which slope outwardly from the bend to the lateral edges and toward the first plate and the second plate such that the facing strip contacts the first plate and the second plate only at the lateral edges of the facing strip;

at least one bracket, the at least one bracket comprising a slot extending inwardly from an edge of the at least one bracket, the at least one bracket being welded to the facing strip;

a backing means placed along the joint on the side of the first and second plates opposite the facing strip; and

at least one bolt for attaching the facing strip to the backing means, the at least one bolt being disposed in the slot of the at least one bracket so as to be attached to the facing strip without penetrating through the facing strip.

2. (Previously Presented) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein the at least one bracket is generally flat and disposed generally parallel to the lateral edges of the facing strip.

3. (Previously Presented) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the first plate and second plate comprise bullet proof plate steel.
4. (Previously Presented) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the at least one bracket comprises at least two brackets each having a slot formed therein for receiving a bolt, and wherein the slots on the at least two brackets are disposed on opposite sides of the brackets from one another.
5. (Previously Presented) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein the facing strip has sides extending rearwardly to the first plate and the second plate at an angle of about 12.5 degrees.
6. (Previously Presented) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the at least one bracket contacts the first and second plates.
7. (Previously Presented) A joint of a bullet trap, the joint comprising:
 - a first bullet proof metal plate;
 - a second bullet proof metal plate having an edge disposed adjacent an edge of the first bullet proof metal plate;
 - a facing strip being bent along the center thereof so as to define two sides and so as to form an angle less than 180 degrees between the two sides such that the two sides extend both outwardly and backwardly from the center thereof, and having lateral edges extending substantially the length of the facing strip, the facing strip being disposed along the adjacent

edges of the first and second plates so as to cover the adjacent edges of the first and second plates such that only the lateral edges of the facing strip contact the first and second plates;

at least one bracket comprising a flat piece of plate steel having a slot formed therein, the slot extending inwardly from an edge thereof, the at least one bracket being disposed in a generally planar relationship to the lateral edges of the facing strip and being welded to the facing strip, the at least one bracket being configured for engaging a bolt so as to hold the bolt to the facing strip without the bolt penetrating through the facing strip; and

at least one bolt for holding the facing strip against the first and second plates.

8. (Previously Presented) The joint according to claim 7, wherein the sides of the facing strip extend rearwardly from the bent central portion at an angle of about 12.5 degrees.

9. (Previously Presented) The joint according to claim 7, wherein the at least one bracket comprises a plurality of brackets, each of the brackets having a slot extending from an edge thereof for receiving a bolt and at least two of the brackets having the slot on opposing sides thereof.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The joint according to claim 13,~~ A bullet proof joint comprising:

a pair of bullet proof steel plates disposed such that an edge of one plate is adjacent the edge of the other plate;

a joint strip disposed to cover the adjacent edges of the bullet proof plates comprising:

_____ a facing strip defining a pair of sloped walls extending outwardly and rearwardly from a central portion extending along a long axis of the facing strip such that only the edges of the sloped walls contact the plates, wherein the facing strip is bent lengthwise into an angle of about 155 degrees, and wherein sides of the facing strip extend linearly so as to contact the bullet proof steel plates only at an edge thereof; and

_____ means for attaching a plurality of bolts to the facing strip without the bolts penetrating through the facing strip comprising a plurality of brackets permanently attached to the facing strip, each of the brackets being configured to receive a bolt;

_____ a backing strip disposed to cover the adjacent edges of the bullet proof plates on the side of the plates opposite the facing strip; and

_____ a plurality of bolts for holding the facing strip, bullet proof plates, and backing strip together.

15. (Previously Presented) The joint according to claim 14, wherein at least two of the brackets have slots for receiving a bolt, the slots being disposed on opposing sides of the brackets.

16-24. (Canceled)